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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 30 2006 PATENT

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/536,559
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A combined oil control ring consists of:

an oil ring body which is integrally formed of upper and lower rails which bring outer peripheral surfaces thereof into slide contact with an inner surface of a cylinder and a web which connects [[the]] said upper and lower rails and includes a plurality of windows, and

a coil expander which pushes [[the]] said oil ring body in the direction toward [[the]] said inner surface of [[the]] said cylinder, [[the]] said coil expander being housed in an inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body,

wherein projecting portions which extend toward a center line in the thickness direction are formed at inner peripheral sides in the radial direction than a position where an axial distance between inner peripheries of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body becomes maximum.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the axial distance between inner-peripheries of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of the

oil ring body is smaller than the maximum distance L2, in the inner portion than the position of L2.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 2, wherein the minimum distance L1 and the maximum distance L2 satisfy a relationship of $0.03 \leq (L2-L1)/L1 \leq 0.15$, said minimum distance being said axial distance between inner-peripheries of the inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional shape in the radial direction of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body is formed of an arcuate surface.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional shape in the radial direction of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body includes a pair of inclined ~~surface~~ surfaces which face each other and a vertical surface in the axial direction which connects both inclined surfaces.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is formed on only one periphery of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the maximum widths in the axial direction of the projecting portions formed on upper and lower portions of [[the]] said inner-peripheral groove portion of [[the]] said oil ring body differ from each other.

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 2, wherein the minimum distance L1 and an outer diameter d of [[the]] said coil expander have a relationship of $0.2\text{mm} \geq L1-d \geq -0.10\text{mm}$.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the projection ~~portion is~~ portions are partially formed on [[the]] said oil ring body in a circumferential direction.